200.0 lakh ha from 186.3 lakh ba dur. ing this period. During the current yeai the production of oilseeds are likeiy to reach a record level, as a result of various measures taken by the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

Subsidy to fertilizer industry

330. SHRl SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will ths Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware that nearly Rs. 3000 crores aie given as sub sidy to fertilizer sector;

(b) whether Government are aware that this subsidy helps only industry and big formers; and

(c) if so, Ihe steps Government are taking to reduce the subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRl BHAJAN LAL); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The principle underlying the Retention Price and Subsidy Scheme is to protect the interest of farmers by making available fertilizers at uniform notified prices which they can afford and at the same time to ensure reasonable renin on investment to the manufacturers and thus facilitate the growth of fertiliser industry.

With a view to reducing- subsidy on indigenous fertilisers, differential levels of opacity utilsation and longer economic life of plant and machinery have been assumed for fixing the retention price | for the fifth pricing period commencing from 1-4-1988.

Sale of additional items throngh the out-lets of PDS

*331. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will ihe Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have urged the St:.te Governments to explore the possibilities of selling additional items through Che outlets of the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, whether the State of Madhya Pradesh have accepted the recommenda tion and have raised additional essential items for distribution in the fair price shops, and

(c) if so, what are the items that were so increased and whether the supplies of these items were also made available to the State Governments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government has informed that it distributes Jowar and Maiza depending on their availability ITie State Government procures these items on their own.

Collaboration in seed development

*332. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE bes pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms and conditions laid down by Government for grant of technical/financial collaboration involving, foreign equity participation as well as technical collaboration on royalty payment basis separately in seed develop* ment;

(b) whether approval of the Department of Bio-technology is required for such collaboation; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the authority which approves col-laboration referred to above and the formalities required from Indian compa-nies/firms for allowing such collaboration

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL); (a) The production of certified high yielding hybrid seeds and hybrids of plantlets developed through plants tissue culture has been recognised as a high technology area, and has been included in 198t>, in the Appendix-I to Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 for participation by MRTP/FERA companies. The usual norms and conditions laid down by